



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Chuck Della Sala  
Mayor, City of Monterey  
City Hall  
580 Pacific St.  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mayor Della Sala,

Thank you, again, for traveling to Sacramento last week for a meeting about the Light Brown Apple Moth project. I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about your concerns and those of the Monterey City Council, and I was grateful for the opportunity to further explain the emergency nature of the prescribed pheromone treatment in Monterey County. As we discussed, invasive species threaten our environment, our food supply, and public health, and our efforts to prevent invasive species like the apple moth from becoming established in California remain a high priority.

When I visited Monterey last week, I promised the community that I would carefully consider the opinions and concerns expressed before making a decision on whether or not to move forward with the program. My staff and I have worked diligently to digest that information and consider our options.

I have determined that aerial application of the moth pheromone, Checkmate OLR-F, will begin in Monterey County on Sunday, September 9, at 8 p.m., weather permitting. The operation that night will cover just part of the eradication area. To complete the initial application throughout the rest of the area, additional plane flights are scheduled to occur on September 10 and September 11.

I am confident in the science that has been presented about the safety and efficacy of Checkmate OLR-F. I believe this to be the most environmentally friendly pest eradication project in the history of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. We have chosen an approach that addresses unique local environmental concerns, such as the monarch butterfly and the proximity of local sea life.

I appreciate the concerns and the passion demonstrated last week by some of the citizens of Monterey County. They have raised some important questions about the project, and we have posted them—along with answers—on our web site: [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is committed to protecting the life systems of this state. We will stay in communications with the people and municipalities of Monterey County. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A.G. Kawamura  
Secretary

cc: Congressman Sam Farr, Senator Abel Maldonado, Assemblymember John Laird, Assemblymember Anna Caballero, Assemblymember Nicole Parra, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen

